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ADVANCED FLOOR MAT

This application is a continuation-in-part of international application no. PCT/US00/30206, filed November 2, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application no. 09/553,234, filed April 19, 2000 and issued May 24, 2001 as U.S. patent no. 6,233,776. Application no. 09/553,234 is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application no. 09/418,752, filed October 15, 1999, ^{Now a ~~Continued~~} which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application no. 09/304,051, filed May 4, 1999 and issued April 24, 2001 as U.S. patent no. 6,219,876.

Background and Discussion of the Invention

The present invention relates to a floor mat having features that make it more desirable for home, commercial and other uses. More specifically, the invention provides a floor mat that includes a cleanable portion, and may also include a water dissipation component, a water absorbing component, a cushioning component, customized graphics, a transparent cleanable portion, a tacky surface on the cleanable portion, an antibacterial composition, an antifungal composition, and a fragrance. The cleanable portion may be erodible and may include a plurality of cleanable reusable layers. If a tacky surface is included in the floor mat, an anti-slip feature may be associated with the tacky surface to help prevent slipping on a possibly wet tacky surface. Additionally, a sensor system may be included in the floor mat to assist a user in identifying when the floor mat may require cleaning.

Floor mats are known for cleaning the soles of a person's shoes who is about to enter a particular area or room. One problem with floor mats in general is how to keep the floor mat sufficiently clean such that it may perform its function of cleaning the person's shoes when, by its very nature, it is purposefully dirtied when performing its function.